

This English course is designed to support Shrewsbury High School's "Mission Statement" and targets the following specific student expectations by providing opportunities for students to:

- Fulfill individual academic potential. (#1)
- Develop and apply critical and creative thinking skills. (#2)
- Demonstrate effective reading, speaking, writing, and listening skills. (#7)
- Participate in collaborative and cooperative learning. (#8)
- Demonstrate self-discipline and personal responsibility for learning. (#9)

**Title:** Creative Writing (I) (Elective)

**Course description:**

Creative writing is an elective course designed for those students who have displayed a proficiency in writing independently outside the classroom and who have submitted work judged to be superior. Students will read works by established authors and analyze styles and techniques. Students will write from various models and prompts with emphasis on revision. There will be regular assignments and opportunities for journal writing and workshop critiquing sessions. Students will be required to attend outside readings, work on group assignments, and submit work to Excelsior, outside journals, and local contests.

**Expectations:**

1. Students will analyze writing styles and techniques and various genres as models for their own writing.
2. Students will develop critiquing skills in evaluating their own work as well as that of other writers.
3. Students will develop skills in revision, sequencing, clarification, and development in their writing.
4. Students will attend outside readings, submit work to journals, and stage a performance of their own writing.

**Units:**

(Note that reading, writing, speaking, listening, and thinking skills comprise integral parts of these units.)

- a. Units that require several days of analysis of models and several days of preparation are taught throughout the course. These units include assignments on such topics as the description of a specific age level, a response to a color, a truth, a betrayal, a fear, a dream, and a friend.

- b. Units are also taught involving spontaneous writing either in journal entries or in ten-minute assignments in which no analysis of models is developed. Such assignments include responses to prompts such as quotes, illustrations, or such objects as a dollar bill or a piece of bread.
- c. Units are taught from assignments in such texts as Writing To Be Read and others. Assignments include exercises in revision, tightening, and free focused writing.
- d. Units are also taught involving the preparation and submission of manuscripts for publication, and the selection, practice, and performance of a public reading.

**Materials:**

Writing To Be Read (Ken Macrorie)  
Writing To Learn (Donald M. Murray)  
Rose, Where Did You Get That Red ? (Kenneth Koch)  
Selected outside readings

**Assessment:**

- a. Teacher assessment of written work
- b. Peer editing and critiquing
- c. Teacher evaluation of public performance and long range projects